

New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center
Situation Report: August 12, 2015 at 12:15

RE: Gold King Mine Water Contaminant Incident

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13:26 Aug 12 Current numbers since beginning of event Aug 5, 2015

Human exposure means individuals reporting concerns or symptoms
(includes physicians calling regarding patients they are evaluating):

	8/8/15	8/10/15	8/11/15	Total
WATER RELATED				
Human Exposures	0	2	4	6
Animal Exposures	0	0	0	0
Information Calls	2	0	2	4
Total	2	2	6	10

Note: Regular call volume is low, possibly would increase if NMPDIC was promoted as a source of information.

Symptoms reported are only from dermal exposure:

reddened skin, itching, rashes, fatigue, muscle pain

Evaluation of Cases From the Public Reported to the NMPDIC:

On 8/10/15 we received a call regarding 2 human exposure cases from a husband and wife who were backpacking near Farmington, and drank 1.5 liters each out of river after backpacking at the trailhead, which was put through a charcoal filter; they saw sediment in bottom of their plastic container and tried not to drink the sludge. No symptoms have been reported. We are waiting for a call from their primary care MD to provide laboratory testing advice.

On 8/11/15 we received a call regarding 4 exposure cases from a family living in Albuquerque just returning from their cabin in Colorado. The exposures were dermal. 36 yoF, 43 YRM, 4 yoF, 7.5 yo M were playing in the river near Silverton Colorado for three days over the weekend, starting on Friday. They all had a burning sensation, erythema and itching on skin that lasted 2 hours before washing. The caller and spouse also claim fatigue and muscle pain. We felt skin reactions may be related but not systemic symptoms and have closed the cases.

Surveillance:

The NMPDIC will be conducting active surveillance of all calls related to the incident.

Important Issue to Address:

Miriam Wamsley at NMDOH has recommended a panel of tests to be recommended on patients with oral exposure to contaminated water from this incident.

Contaminant	Blood	24 urine
Aluminum	X	
Antimony		x
Arsenic		X
Cadmium	X	X
Chromium	X	
Cobalt	X	
Copper	X	
Lead	X	
Manganese	X (whole blood)	X
Mercury		X
Zinc		X

Current Status:

Number of calls is low, thus there is no need to activate the poison center emergency plan. Dr Seifert (Medical Director and toxicologist) will be attending the meeting tonight in Farmington with public health officials and ATSDR to provide expertise on the metals involved.

CDPHE has issued a press release. EPA and CDPHE has been testing the river water. Colorado had been seeing elevated levels of lead, cadmium, and manganese in the water.

NMPDIC has begun to coordinate with the poison centers in Utah, Colorado, and Arizona and plans to provide combined situation reports ongoing. DOH will be offered the opportunity to receive automated NPDS surveillance emails.

Mariam Wamsley is the epidemiologist representing NMPDIC.

Toxicity Identification By the NMPDIC:

Per reports from Colorado, the major contaminants of concern are manganese, cadmium, and lead. These are present at diminishing concentrations as the plume moves down the river, thus New Mexico citizens will have less contamination concerns.

Current Concerns:

The two patients with oral exposure were instructed to have their primary care MD call the NMPDIC so that we can provide recommendations for lab testing. We have been unable to reach the family and their MD has not called.